

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Title with the following Title, which includes markings to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

~~ABSORBENT, FLEXIBLE, STRUCTURE COMPRISING~~ STARCH-CONTAINING FIBERS
AND FIBROUS STRUCTURES EMPLOYING SAME

Page 20, lines 12-19, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph, which includes markings to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

Still other water-soluble cationic resins finding utility in this invention are urea formaldehyde and melamine formaldehyde resins. The more common functional groups of these polyfunctional resins are nitrogen containing groups such as amino groups and methylol groups attached to nitrogen. Polyethylenimine type resins may also find utility in the present invention. In addition, temporary wet strength resins such as Caldas® 10 (manufactured by Japan Carlit) and CoBond® 1000 (manufactured by National Starch and Chemical Company), both dialdehyde starch resins, may be used in the present invention.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (New) A fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has a size ranging from about 0.02 dtex to about 30 dtex.
12. (New) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber comprises from about 20% to about 99.99% by weight of the fiber of starch.
13. (New) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber further comprises a plasticizer.
14. (New) The fiber according to Claim 13 wherein the plasticizer selected from the group consisting of: sorbitol, monosaccharides, disaccharides, glycerol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol and mixtures thereof.
15. (New) The fiber according to Claim 13 wherein the plasticizer is present in the fiber at a level of from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the fiber.
16. (New) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber further comprises a cross-linking agent.
17. (New) The fiber according to Claim 16 wherein the cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of: polyamide-epichlorohydrin resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, glyoxylated polyacrylamide resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, polyethylenimine resins, dialdehyde starch resins and mixtures thereof.
18. (New) The fiber according to Claim 16 wherein the cross-linking agent is present in the fiber at a level of from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the fiber.
19. (New) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein fiber has a Tg of at least -30°C.
20. (New) A fibrous structure comprising a plurality of fibers, wherein at least one fiber is a fiber according to Claim 11.
21. (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an absorbency ranging from about $1 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$ to about $15 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$.

22. (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a total flexibility ranging from about 1.0 g/cm to about 75 g/cm.
23. (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean dry tensile strength ranging from about 10 g/cm to about 1200 g/cm.
24. (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 400 g/cm.
25. (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 24 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 200 g/cm.
26. (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean decayed wet tensile strength ranging from about 0 g/cm to about 20 g/cm.
27. (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about 10 g/m² to about 450 g/m².
28. (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an apparent density ranging from about 0.04 g/cm³ to about 0.12 g/cm³.
29. (New) A paper product comprising a fibrous structure, wherein the fibrous structure comprises a fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has a size ranging from about 0.01 dtex to about 135 dtex.
30. (New) A fibrous structure comprising a fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has a size ranging from about 0.01 dtex to about 135 dtex and wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about 10 g/m² to about 450 g/m².

REMARKS

Per the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended the Specification to include a generic description of the materials referred to by their trademarked designations.

Further, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-10 without prejudice.

The subject matter of cancelled Claims 1-10 has been incorporated into new Claims 11-30. New Claims 11-30 find support in the Specification and in the Claims as originally filed. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 11-30 are not indefinite.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 11-30 are pending. An additional claims fee accompanies this Amendment.

Rejections Under 35 USC 112:

Claim 6 is rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite as a result of containing trademarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot in light of the cancellation of Claim 6.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot in light of the cancellation of Claims 1-4 and 7-10.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102:

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,516,815 to Buehler et al. ("Buehler").

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot in light of the cancellation of Claims 1 and 5.

Claims 1 and 5 (Applicant believes this is what the Examiner meant with the phrase "Claims 1,5 are rejected") are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,570,449 to Horsak ("Horsak").

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot in light of the cancellation of Claims 1 and 5.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103:

Claims 1, 2-4 and 6-10 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103 as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over Buehler, identified above, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,286,770 to Bastioli et al. ("Bastioli").

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot in light of the cancellation of Claims 1, 2-4 and 6-10.

New Claims:

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 11-30 are not indefinite and further submit that new Claims 11-30 are not anticipated by, nor rendered obvious over any of the cited prior art references because the cited prior art references fail to teach and/or suggest a fiber comprising starch wherein the fiber has a size ranging from about 0.01 dtex to about 30 dtex. Further, Applicants submit that the cited prior art references fail to teach and/or suggest a paper product comprising a fibrous structure, wherein the fibrous structure comprises a fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has a size ranging from about 0.01 dtex to about 135 dtex nor a fibrous structure comprising a fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has a size ranging from about 0.01 dtex to about 135 dtex and wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about 10 g/m² to about 450 g/m².

Conclusion:

WHEREAS, Applicants have made an earnest effort to overcome the rejections of the claims, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein and a notice of allowance of new Claims 11-30.

Respectfully submitted,

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